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Press Release

6th Migration Observatory Report "A Gendered Look at Immigrant Economic Integration"

*by Tommaso Frattini (University of Milan and Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano)
with Irene Solmone (Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano)*

The Migration Observatory of Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano (LdA) and Fondazione Collegio Carlo Alberto (CCA) in Turin has published the sixth annual report on the economic integration of immigrants in Europe, written by Tommaso Frattini with Irene Solmone, which will be presented on Monday, 14th March from 16:00 to 17:00 CET at Carlo Alberto in Piazza Arbarello 8 (to register for the in-person event sign up [here](#); to follow online sign up [here](#)).

This year's report has a monographic part on the characteristics and labour market outcomes of immigrant women in Europe, as well as an update of annual data on immigrant integration into the labour market in Europe. The report, available at <https://dagliano.unimi.it> (to download the pdf click [here](#)), is based on an original analysis of microdata from the European Labour Force Survey (EU LFS) 2020.

The presentation will be part of the international conference on "[Gender and Migration](#)" which, from 9:45 to 17:45 CET, will discuss the following three topics: immigrant women's choices, aspirations and work outcomes – Alicia Adserà (Princeton University, CReAM and IZA), Barbara Boelmann (University of Cologne) and Martina Viarengo (The Graduate Institute, Geneva and Harvard University); immigrant women and domestic work – Sabrina Marchetti (Ca' Foscari University of Venice); consequences of the influx of low-skilled immigrant women on the labour market participation of native women – Patricia Cortés (Boston University).

The Observatory's activities are supported by Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo. The key findings are summarised below.

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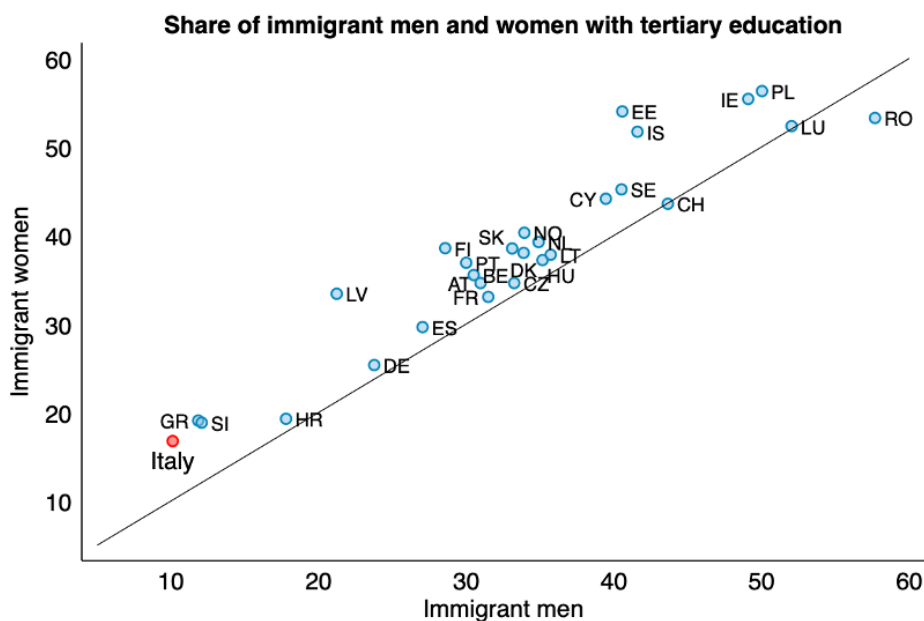
Integration of immigrant women in the European labour market

Women face considerable disadvantages in the labour market. They have a lower employment probability, are employed in less economically rewarding occupations, and earn lower wages than men even when they perform comparable jobs. Such gender inequality is exacerbated for immigrant women, who face labour market penalties over and above those faced by immigrant men. Immigrant women account for more than half of the total immigrant population in Europe (52%). Among the European countries with a large immigrant presence, Italy is the one hosting the highest share of women over the total immigrant population (55%).

Education

Immigrant women are on average more highly educated than immigrant men.

Across Europe, 31% of immigrant women and 28% of immigrant men have a tertiary education, while 34% of immigrant women and 35% of immigrant men hold at most a lower secondary school degree. The higher education of immigrant women relative to men is a feature of most European countries, though male and female immigrants' education are strongly correlated: countries hosting the most educated immigrant women also host the most educated immigrant men.



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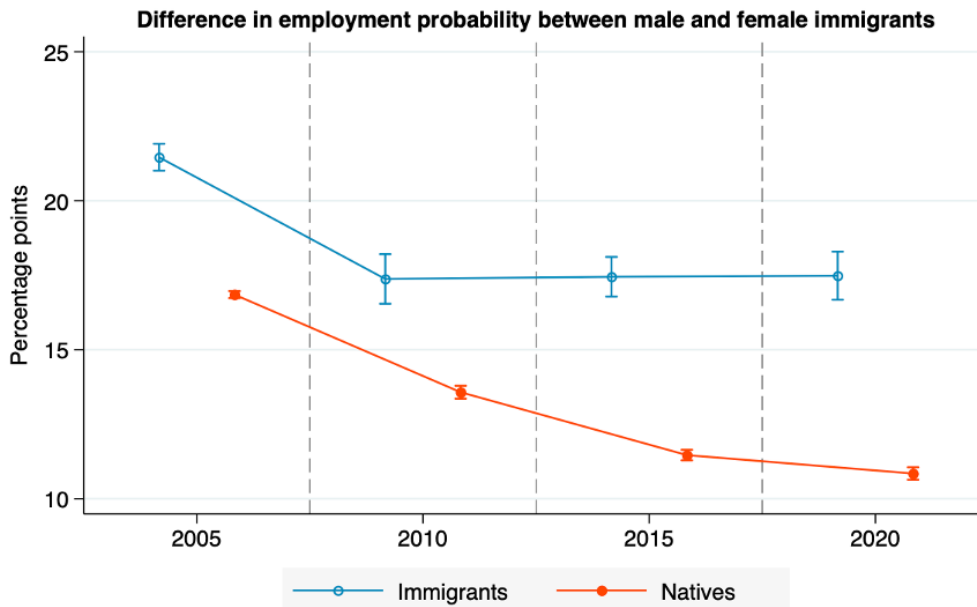
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Employment

Immigrant women have a lower employment probability than immigrant men.

Despite their higher education, across Europe immigrant women have a 13.6 percentage points lower employment probability than immigrant men and very little of this disadvantage can be explained by individual characteristics. The gender gap in employment is substantially higher among immigrants than among natives, and while the latter has followed a downward path in the past decade, the former has remained unchanged (18 percentage points).



Occupational Status and Income

Immigrant women are disproportionately employed in low-pay and low-skill jobs.

24% of immigrant women are employed in elementary occupations, vs 14% of immigrant men. The concentration is highest in cleaning jobs (18% vs 2% for immigrant men). They are also overrepresented at the bottom of the income distribution, and almost half of them (49%) are concentrated in the bottom three

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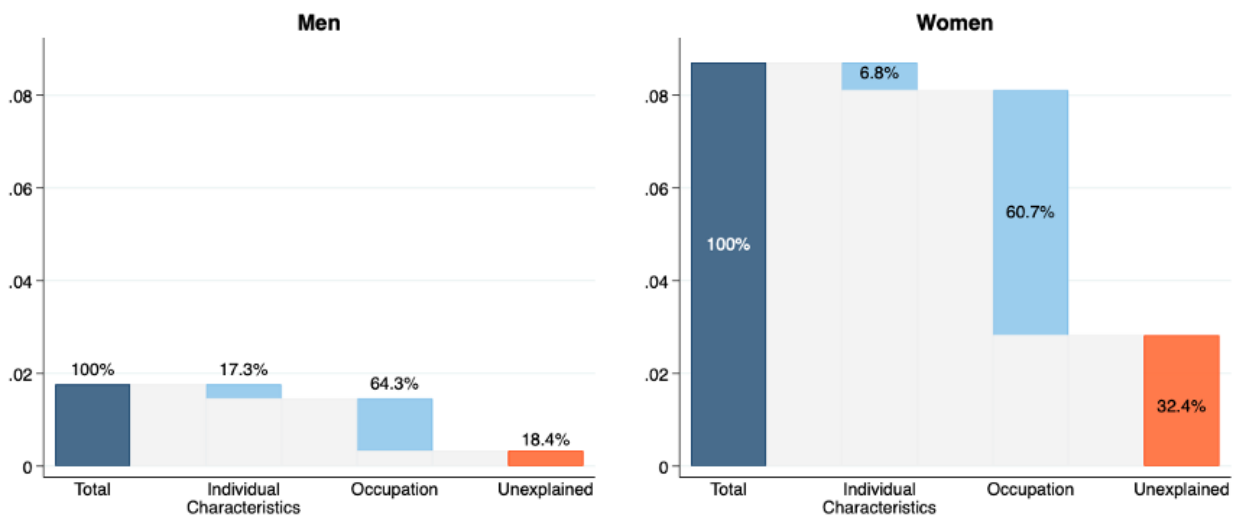


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income deciles. Two thirds of their greater probability of being in the bottom income decile with respect to native women can be explained by occupational clustering. However, as much as one third remains unexplained, which indicates that immigrant women have a substantial income disadvantage also relative to native women with the same age and education, and performing the same job.

Immigrant-native difference in probability of being in bottom decile
(overall and after accounting for individual characteristics and occupational clustering)



Source: our elaboration on EU LFS data

Integration of immigrant women in the Italian labour market

The individual characteristics and the economic and labour-market outcomes of immigrant women in Italy are substantially worse than the European average.

Education

Immigrant women in Italy have low levels of education.

Not only are immigrant education levels in Italy lower than the European average (and among the lowest in Europe, like those of Italian natives), but they have not been improving at all in the past decade and a half. Less than one fifth (17%) of

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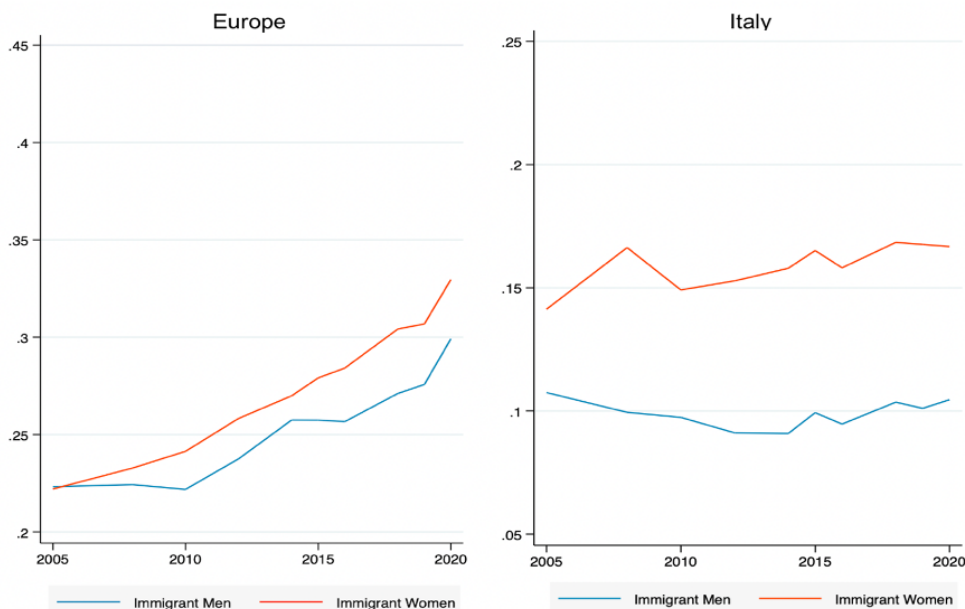


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immigrant women in Italy are tertiary educated (vs 31% in Europe), and across origins this share is lowest among African women (9% v. 23% in Europe).

Share of immigrant men and women with tertiary education



Source: our elaboration of EU LFS data

Employment

Immigrant women have a lower employment probability than Italian women. The gender gap in employment is higher among immigrant than among Italian natives.

The differential in employment probability between native and immigrant women is 7 percentage points, lower than most other EU countries. However, this is only because the employment rate of native Italian women (50%) is the second lowest in Europe after Greece. Furthermore, immigrant women in Italy have demographic characteristics that make them less employable than Italian women: the employment probability gap decreases from 7 to 4 percentage points when accounting for age and education. The immigrant gender gap in employment probability is 28 percentage points, 10 percentage points higher than the European average, and, unlike in the rest of Europe, it has increased in the past five years.

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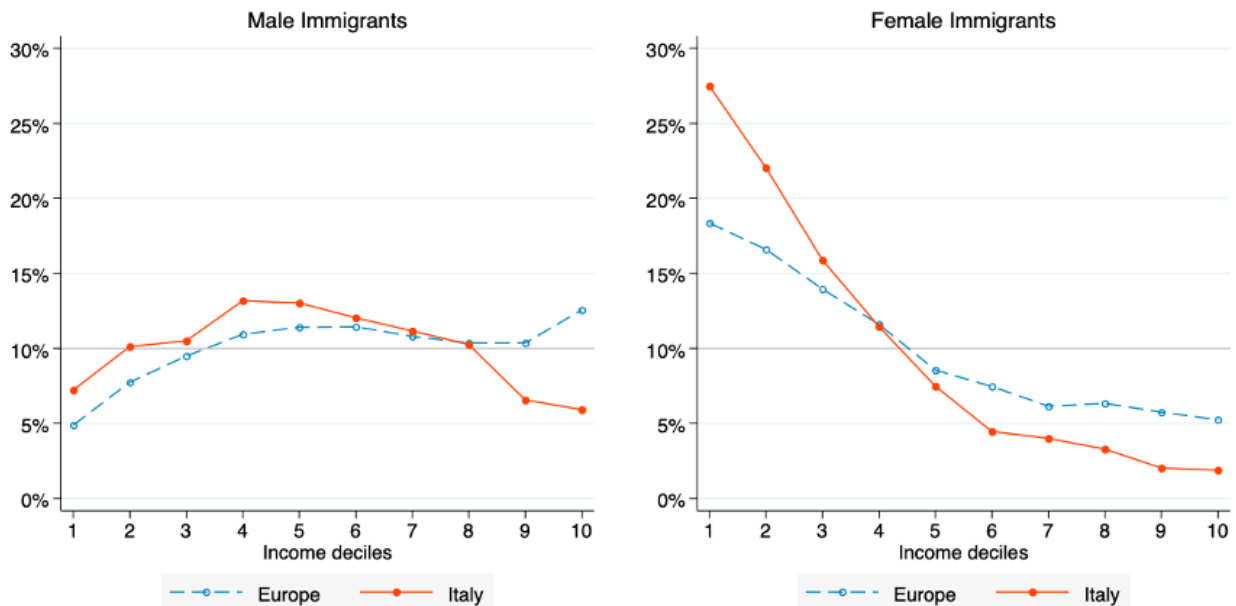


Occupational Status and Income

Immigrant women are at the bottom of the income distribution.

Almost half (49.5%) of immigrant women in Italy are in the bottom two income deciles, and only 1.9% in the top decile, the lowest value in Europe. Immigrant women are especially concentrated in elementary jobs in Italy and in other Southern European countries: about one third of immigrant women in Italy, Greece and Spain are employed in an elementary occupation vs 24% in Europe.

Immigrant distribution along national income deciles, by gender



Source: our elaboration on EU LFS data

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